

BULLETIN
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THE EVERETT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE NICHOLS FAMILY

By Mrs. Beulah E. Listernick

The first Nichols mentioned in the history of South Malden was named James. He married in April, 1660, Mary Felt, daughter of George Felt of Charlestown and they settled in South Malden. He was a soldier in King Phillip's Indian War of 1676 and a Selectman in Malden in 1684. He had six children, and these six children became the ancestors of various branches of the Nichols family which settled in what is now Everett.

His second child was James Nichols, Jr. who was born in 1662. He was granted land in Malden in 1694/5, and in 1714 was a resident at Wormwood Point (Beacham's Point-now at the end of Beacham Street, Everett). By his second wife Abigail, this James Nichols, Jr. also had a son named James (3) who was born here in 1694 and who married here in 1719 Tabitha Floyd, and they had a son John Nichols (4) who was born in 1723 and married a Malden girl in 1748, Elizabeth Burditt, daughter of John and Hannah (Cole) Burditt. He purchased an old house of John Marble in 1746 which originally stood on Moulton's Island (in the Island End River) and he removed this house to Chelsea Street in the vicinity of Everett Springs. It is no longer standing.

John and Elizabeth (Burditt) had nine children born in South Malden. Two of their sons were Ebenezer born April 21, 1763 and Nathan born April 18, 1765. At the age of ten, Nathan Nichols witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill from So. Malden's fortifications at Beacham's Point. In 1792 he married Dorcas Smith daughter of Capt. Isaac Smith and he purchased the Capt. Isaac Smith house on Chelsea Street, Everett, and owned and cultivated what was then known as the Nichols Farm which

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extended from Nichols Street through Vine and Irving Streets, and down to Chelsea Steeet. He was Capt. Nathan Nichols, a mariner. He traveled to many distant lands, including Holland and Russia, and followed the sea up to 1812. He re-presented Malden in the Legislature from 1819 to 1824.

One of the nine children of Capt. Nathan Nichols (5) and Dorcas Smith Nichols was John Smith Nichols (5) who was born in South Malden Feb.20, 1817..He married Elizabeth Perkins of Maine in 1847 and they had four children. In South Malden he followed the occupation of shoemaking and later continued cultivating of the "Nichols Farm". He was a member of the OLD HAND FIRE ENGINE of General Taylor in South Malden. He was a member of Washington Light Infantry of Malden, a crack Military Company, and he was a superior drill master. In 1882 he was a candidate as a member of the General Court, but was defeated. He was Selectman of Malden in 1862.

Nathan Nichols (6) was the eldest of the four children of John Smith Nichols (5) and Elizabeth (Perkins) Nichols and he was born in South Malden in 1848. He was graduated from Malden High School in 1865, and a year later entered the em- ployment of Wellington Company of Boston, wholesale dealers in dry goods. He next became a bookkeeper for Henry C. Cook Company, an importer of milinery goods, and he remained with them for seventeen years. He married in 1887 Alice W.D, Plummer of Chelsea, and they had one son. They resided at 13 Ferry Street, Everett, which, under today's numbering, is probably #29. He held many civil positions after Everett be-came a town, and was A Water Commissioner in Everett from 1878 to 1882; a member of the School Committee from 1886 to 1891, and served as secretary of the Board for four years; he was Treasurer of the City of Everett in 1890; the last Town Treasurer and Collector and the first City Treasurer and Collector when Everett became a city in 1892. He was First

Master of Palestine Lodge of Masons, and a member of the Knight Templars of Chelsea, and the Odd Fellows.

The preceding is one line of direct descendants from James Nichols (1) and Mary (Felt) Nichols, and they contributed much to South Malden, and later to Everett. A collateral line of direct descendants from this couple led to Ebenezer Nichols (5) who was born in South Malden April 21, 1763 the son of John and Elizabeth (Burditt) Nichols. He married Esther Sargent on April 5, 1792, the daughter of David Sargent. He served in almost every office in Malden, and was a member of the School Committee, Assessor, and Selectman, and he was a member of the General Court. His home was at the end of Nichols Lane, which Lane became a part of the present Nichols Street. He was the great grandfather of Mayor Charles C. Nichols of Everett.

Ebenezer Nichols (5) had a son, Benjamin F. Nichols, who was Superintendent of the Metropolitan Coal Company at 443 Broadway, Everett, and who resided at 49 Nichols Street. His wife was Abigail Cameron of Brookline, New Hampshire, and they had a son Joseph E. Nichols who was born April 6, 1828, in the old Phineas Sargent house, on Summer Street, Everett, in the rear of the Universalist Church. Both the Sargent home and the church have been demolished.

Joseph E. Nichols (7) grew up on the Nichols Farm in South Malden on the now Ferry Street. He married in 1854 Lucena Corbett of Malden, and he made his living for 28 years in the milk business, devoting some time to real estate matters, but his real contribution was to Everett. He served several terms as a Selectman prior to the town division, and held a town office continually from 1871 to 1890. He was one of the original "Everett Associates", President of that group from its organization to his death, approximately twenty years. He was one of the first members of Palestine Lodge of Masons and a member of the Royal Arcanum, and of the United Order of

Red Men. He was a Trustee of the Universalist church for many years. He died in 1891, and left three sons: Everell J., Charles C. and Arthur L. Nichols.

Charles C. Nichols was the second son of Joseph E. and Lucena (Corbett) Nichols, and was born October 13, 1859 in South Malden. After attending common and high schools in Everett, he attended Harvard College, graduated in 1883, and then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1887, and was admitted to the Bar in 1886. He went into the practice of law at 23 Court Street, Boston. He was a member of the Thayer Club of Harvard Law School, the Glendon Club as its first president, a member of the New England Tariff Reform League of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Massachusetts, the Harvard Law school Association, and the Palentine Lodge of Masons, and he was a candidate on the Democratic ticket in 1887 seeking a seat in the General Court.

Charles C. Nichols was Auditor of Everett in Everett's town years, serving in 1886 and 1887. He served as Mayor of Everett in 1900-1901. His accomplishments as Mayor were: new street signs, no-school system which was instituted under his direction, and he granted permission for construction of a number of Industrial buildings. His home was at 43 Corey Street where he lived with his wife, Hattie Frances daughter of David and Frances Jane (Corbett-Otis) and their two children, Helen Frances and Mildred Lucerna. He had other interests and was Librarian of the Universalist Church Sunday School, and Treasurer and Trustee of the Everett Associations, and in 1884 he went to Europe as a member of the LaCrosse Team. He died in Everett on October 21, 1937.

The home of Joseph E. Nichols, father of Mayor Charles C. Nichols was built well over one-hundred years ago. It is located at 37 Ferry Street, and is owned by Dr. & Mrs. Sidney S. Listernick. It originally had twelve rooms, but four rooms

and a porch have been added. It is colonial and the rooms have high ceilings, with borders artistically moulded in plaster. Several marble mantelpieces are in evidence, and over-all, the house gives an air of graciousness, and the impression that it was built with the idea that much family entertainment would be carried on there. This impression is documented by an incident which occurred about 1944 when Mildred Listernick, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Listernick, was a student at Jackson College. Miss Edith Bush was the Dean of Women there, and she was the daughter of Dr. Vannaver Bush, Professor of Physics who later became a leading scientist and who was affiliated with the Universalist Church on Summer Street, Everett. Miss Bush remembered that sometime in the early 1900's she had danced, with others, in the kitchen of the Nichols-Listernick house.

This colonial house stands on approximately one-half acre of land. When it was built there was a large colonial barn on the property, beautifully designed, but it was removed some twenty years ago. There were one large maple tree and seven pear trees, but over the years two of the pear trees have been removed. The Everett Historical Society will date this house and list it as one of Everett's historical homes.

This is only a small part of the history of the Nichols family of South Malden and Everett. Still to be told are the stories of Deacon Nathaniel Nichols (2) born here in 1666, the son of James (1) and Mary (Felt) Nichols and of his son Samuel Nichols (3) born here in 1696. "They lived on Ferry Street, South of Harvard, near the Everett line", the father until 1745 and the son until 1746, and their home and estates became the property in 1746 of Jemima, widow of Samuel, who remarried John Polley of Medford.

A street and a school testify to the fact that Everett has not forgotten its pioneer settlers, the Nichols family, and the

accomplishments of these South Malden and Everett men will long be remembered by us.



Nichols-Listernick home, former
home of Joseph E. Nichols,
father of Mayor Charles C. Nichols
present home of Dr. and Mrs.
Sidney S. Listernick, 37 Ferry
Street, Everett.

Reference-Everett Souvenir, 1893
Assessor's Office, City Hall
Directory of Streets 1901-1902
Malden Families Vol. 111
The History of Malden by Corey

HISTORICAL TREASURE

Everett has a historical treasure in the basement of the Central Fire Station on Broadway. It is a fire bell and has been in that basement for some seven years, having been removed because of a leak in the roof.

In 1847 the first fire engine was purchased for South Malden (Everett). This was a hand-engine, and it was named the General Taylor in honor of the Mexican War general. An engine house was erected that year to house the General Taylor, and this house was called General Taylor No. 4. The Town of Malden contracted with Henry N. Hooper of Boston for a firebell to be installed at the top of the General Taylor No. 4 Fire House, and this bell was struck by Mr. Hooper in 1852 and was put into place. On January 30, 1853 Malden paid \$225.90 for the bell (Malden Town Reports Mar. 21, 1850 to Mar. 1, 1861).

The General Taylor Fire House No. 4 was partially destroyed by fire in 1860, and the house was sold for \$100.00 less \$6.00 paid to the auctioneer. Malden appropriated \$1,000.00 for a new firehouse for So. Malden, for which they paid \$15.00 for the foundation, \$40.73 for pumps and pipes, \$39.35 for brick, \$24.38 for mason work and \$9.35 for lime and sand, plus \$1028.00 to the general contractor, E. B. Loring.

The fire bell moved from time to time as old fire houses were discarded and new ones built, and it finally came to rest when the Central Fire Station was built in 1908, and it rung out fire warnings there for some sixty years. It is a part of our heritage and our history, and it deserves a place on honor in our city.



Shute House (1678)
former site up to 1928-250 Shute Street
present site-Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

Credits - Mrs. Susannah Austin, Reference Librarian
Parlin Library
Chief Arthur G. Butler

THE SHUTE FAMILY OF EVERETT

by Julia Rich Hogan

The history of this family in the geographic area that is now Everett covers three hundred years. For all of this time, Shutes or their descendants have lived here, and the name is memorialized on a street and a library.

The name of Shute is also memorialized by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C., where a colonial house, built here in 1678, is on display. The Smithsonian has been unable to document which Shute built this house, and it is not clear upon what basis the date of 1678 was applied to it. It is, of course, known that there were homes in what is now Everett before that date, but the first record found indicating ownership of land here by a Shute was in 1694/5.

It is the intention here to document that the house which stood at 250 Shute Street in 1921 is the same Shute House presently in the Smithsonian, and to further establish an early history of the Shute family of Everett.

Their history commenced in the settlement at Charlestown in 1694/5 when Richard Shute of Charlestown shared in the sixth division of land located in what was then Malden. No record of Richard's origin has yet been found. He is not mentioned in shipping lists, although the names "Shut" and "Shoot", without given names, are mentioned. They were probably corruptions of the surname Shute.

Richard Shute lived in Boston from 1666 to 1703 (Malden Families Vol 111). This probably should be Charlestown. He drew his will on Sept. 11, 1703, and died in Boston on Oct. 2, the same year, age 72, placing his birth at 1631. The will was

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proved on Oct. 6, and in it he divulged he had made an arrangement with his second wife, Katherine, that she should have 10 pounds per annum during her life, and that at that time he had offered his farm at Malden as collateral for the arrangement. At the time the will was drawn he wished to clear her name from the farm, and he bequeathed her 12 pounds per annum if she would relinquish her right to it. He then left the farm to his sons, Michael and Richard, and to his daughter, Joanna Buckley, naming Joanna as his sole executor inasmuch as his sons were mariners and were often "abroad". He valued his farm in Malden, containing a house and a barn, at 250 pounds. He also mentioned a shallop valued at 20 pounds (a light, open boat), so he was probably also a mariner. This is the only record of a Shute house in what is now Everett before 1700. The evidence, therefore, is very strong that since a Shute house did exist in Everett before 1700, and Richard Shute owned land here with a house and a barn, that the house was built by him. There is no documentation yet that he actually lived here, but his son, Richard, Jr., did. Richard Shute also mentioned in his will that "a kinsman, William Shute" was alive. No record has been found further on this William Shute.

The Smithsonian states the house was located within what is now The Holy Cross Cemetery. This is in error, as it was located in 1921 at 250 Shute Street just east of Lynn Street, and was at that time the property of the Edward Grover Heirs. The land area was 22,200 feet, and was owned in 1868 by Edward Grover of Chelsea who had acquired it from Joshua Grover by deed on April 3, 1868. In his will Edward Grover bequeathed the property to his heirs, Catherine Augusta Pratt and Elmira C. Dickson. On Dec. 5, 1921, the heirs of Catherine Augusta Pratt and Elmira C. Dickson, John E. Dickson and Myra F. Dickson, Robert L. Dickson, Robert L. Pratt and C. Augusta Pratt, sold this property to Walter B. and Ethel M. Claggett of Everett. (Middlesex Book 4480 Page 142) At that time the house was assessed at \$500.00 and the barn at \$200.00. In 1928 the Claggetts built a florist shop and converted a building into a storehouse, and after this conversion

the house was assessed at \$1200. It is not clear from public records which building - the barn or the 1678, was converted into a storehouse, but an interview given some years ago to Miss Helen Currier by Mrs. Claggett documents the building which became a storehouse was the 1678 house. At the purchase, the Claggetts found there were no lights in the house, and they had lamps suspended from huge joists in order that they might work at night when necessary. The house adjoined the Claggett greenhouse.

For reasons which are not as yet clear, the 1678 house was given (or sold) in 1927/28 by the Claggetts to a Mrs. Arthur Greenwood of Marlboro, Mass., collector of antique homes and artifacts. The house was dismantled, piece by piece and beam by beam, and each piece marked. Then the house was trucked to Marlboro. Before removing it, drawings were made and the house was re-assembled at Marlboro under the supervision of George H. Watson of Sturbridge, Mass., a specialist in Colonial restoration, on the farm owned by Mrs. Greenwood known as the "Timestone Farm". It stood there until 1947 when it was again dismantled, carefully marked piece by piece and given by Mrs. Greenwood to the Smithsonian Institute and trucked overland to Washington, and it stands today in the "Hall of Everyday Life in America". At the time it was installed in the Smithsonian, it was described as part of "the first important installation of American antiques in any large museum for a number of years".

The length of the Shute house if 38' 6", the width 15' 4". The original height to the ridge was 20' 10"; the height to rear eave 13' 2". The structure is of hand-hewn oak frame. The walls were plastered with ceiling timbers, joists and boards exposed. Plaster, sheathing and some floor boards are replacements. The house had a central chimney flanked by a pair of rooms on each of two floors, and an entrance porch with a tiny staircase and landing on the second floor; and low-studded

ceilings. The left-hand room on the first floor had a kitchen fireplace and there were large fireplaces in each of the other rooms; and a smoke oven in one room. There was no running water when the house was built, but water was obtained from a clear well which stood on the premises. The structure had leaded casements, which have since been replaced (in 1929) with replicas of 17th century leaded casements. When the house stood in Everett originally, huge round boulders surrounded it, many flowers encircled it, and a beautiful mulberry tree stood at its approach. This is all that is known of the Shute House.

Let us go back now to the first Richard Shute. He bequeathed his house in So. Malden to his two sons, Michael and Richard. Michael soon removed to Newfields, N.H., where his descendants remain today. Richard (2) took up residence in the family home. He was born at Boston on August 31, 1666, became a mariner, and owned land in Falmouth and No. Falmouth, Me. which he sold in 1720. His wife was Lydia daughter of John and Lydia (Sprague) Greenland and she was born in Charlestown 1672/3. With their marriage, the pioneer families of Sprague and Greenland were united with the Shute family. Richard Sprague was the first settler at what is now Everett, and John Greenland was a larger holder of land in the Glendale area of Everett. Richard Shute (2) occupied the first Shute home built in So. Malden.

The second Shute home came into the hands of Deacon John Shute, one of the nine children of Richard (2) and Lydia (Greenland) Shute. John was born in So. Malden on Mar. 29, 1693. He married Mary Waite daughter of John and Sarah (Muzzy) Waite. He occupied the post of Town Clerk of Malden for thirty-six years, and although he was always a resident of South Malden, he remained with the First Church of Christ in the North Precinct even after the division of North and South Malden. His grandfather, Deacon John Greenland, had re-

moved to So. Malden about 1670 and built upon a piece of "woodland west of the Great Swamp" which land he had inherited from his father, also John Greenland, who acquired it in the Great Land Allotment of 1639 (Charlestown Book of Possessions). This land was left to Deacon John Shute and was located "east of Ferry Street" and ran into the present Shute Street, and this property later was the farm of Capt. Henry Rich, and still later of George A. Sammet, both of which surnames—Rich and Sammet — are the names of present day streets in the area. The homestead of the Capt. Rich farm still stands at 68 Newton Street, but this is another story to be told later in another issue of the Bulletin, but the Rich farm covered a large area west of the present Broadway and reached all the way to and over the boundaries of Malden at Ferry Street.

Down through the years many Shute homes have been built in Everett. The 1842 map shows the following: the farm of "H. Shute" (Henry) was the last farm in Everett on Ferry Street before the Malden line; the farm of "B. X. Shute" was on the same side of Ferry as Henry's farm (the south side) three quarters of the way to Glendale Square; and the farm of Solomon Shute (grandson of Richard (4) Deacon John (3) Richard (2) and Richard (1), the son of Solomon Shute, and that of William Shute were next to each other on the Easterly side of the then Newburyport Turnpike on Lynn Street near the triangle; and another farm of Solom Shute (the father of the Solomon just mentioned and the son of Richard and Mary (Green) Shute on the west side of the Turnpike.

The next Shute of importance to this story is Henry Shute who was born in So. Malden on Jan. 27, 1805 the son of William and Mary (Watts)Shute. He married Tabitha (Nichols) and their home was at the furthest point in Everett near the Malden line "in the house next north of Zera Estes' residence on Ferry Street". Henry died Oct. 2, 1891 and is buried in

the Woodlawn Cemetery. His son, William, who inherited the property died a month later on Nov. 25, 1891, and his estate handled disposition of the property. In 1891, four houses stood on this lot of land, bounded on one side by the then Bradford Terrace and on the other by the Malden line.

To give some insight into conditions in Everett during Henry's lifetime, in 1870 the population was 2152. Only two Shutes were listed on the tax rolls; this Henry, and Solomon Shute. Henry paid a poll tax of \$3.00 based upon property of a horse valued at \$100.00, three cows at \$100.00; a wagon at \$50.00; a house at \$900.00 and a barn at \$75.00. He owned 21,780 feet of land valued at \$400.00, and he also owned land on Shute Street valued at \$1450., on which he paid taxes of \$19.28. Solomon had an "unfinished house" valued at \$800.00, and the land was described as "on the turnpike" 9 1/4 acres. He also owned three lots on Shute Street consisting of seven acres, two acres, and 38,632 feet. By 1880, the population was 4,037. The total real estate belonging to the town was valued at \$39,790; the personal estate at \$6,340.00 and the total assets of the town were \$100,538.08.¹ The total value of the real estate here was \$3,748,250. and the personal \$473,150. There were 85 dwellings and 1,134 polls paid. There were 759 students in our schools, and the teachers' salaries amounted to \$8,454.50.

Henry Shute is important to this story because he was the father of the William Shute who bequeathed money for the Shute Memorial Library, which library further attests that the surname of Shute will remain in Everett for perhaps hundreds of years. William Shute married about 1856 Elizabeth Kimball, who was a Salem native, and after their marriage they removed to Lynn where he died on Nov. 25, 1891 age 60/6/0. His estate was probated Jan. 4, 1892 (Essex Docket #71641). The 13th paragraph of his will states:

"...To the Town of Everett
I give the sum of \$10,000.
for the purpose of procuring
land and erecting thereon a
Public Library building. The
same must be located in that
part of Everett called Glendale,
on Broadway or upon some lot
of land northerly of said Broad-
way.

This bequest is made as a mem-
orial to my deceased mother,
Tabitha Shute. If this bequest
is not accepted by vote of the
Town within one year from the
date of the probate of my will,
it shall be void..."

By the time this bequest was put into effect, Everett became a city, accepted the gift and appropriated from the bequest \$1908.00 in 1895 to purchase the land then belonging to Edward W. Saunders upon which the Shute Library was built and stands today.

William's widow, Elizabeth M. (Kimball) Shute died at Lynn on Nov. 1, 1893 age 57 3/8, and both are buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery there. On Dec. 4, 1893 her estate was probated (Essex Docket #74979), and her will bequeathed to the City of Lynn \$10,000. for the erection of a library in memory of her husband, William Shute.. This bequest was later lumped with additional money and a library called The Shute Library was opened in Lynn on June 10, 1920 and remains open today.

This is the descent of William Shute in the Shute family:

1st gen.. -Richard Shute-2nd wife Katherine-of Boston
2nd gen. -Richard Shute and Lydia (Greenland)Shute-of
So. Malden
3rd.gen.-Deacon John and Mary (Waite)Shute of So.Malden
4th gen.-Jacob and Mary (Pratt) Shute-of So.Malden
5th gen.-Jacob and Elizabeth (Hitchings) Shute-of Lynn
Street near Shute Street
6th gen.-William and Mary (Watts) Shute of Lynn Street
7th gen.-Henry and Tabitha (Nichols) Shute
8th gen.-William and Elizabeth (Kimball) Shute-of Lynn,
Mass.

All of the preceding, except the first and last generations, were residents of what is now Everett, and are buried in our cemeteries.

It can easily be seen to what extent the Shute family dominated the area that is now Glendale, clear to the Malden line, both northward and westward. Their farms stretched for miles in all directions. The Shutes were very prolific and as the generations progressed, Shute farms were built in several locations in the Glendale area, it being great farming country.

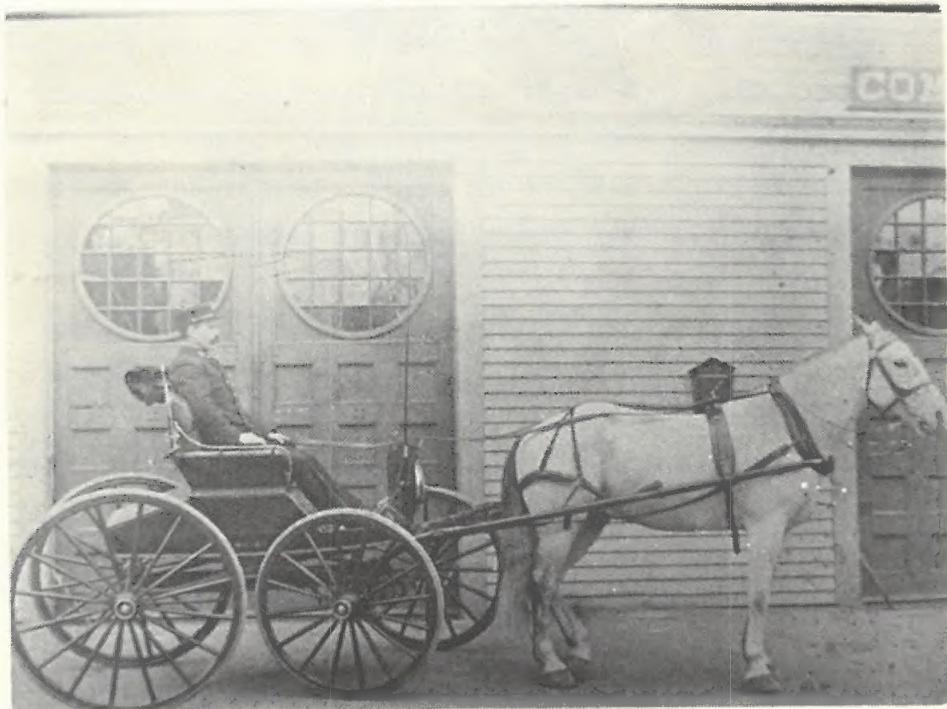
When the Shutes lived there, Glendale was a village within South Malden. There is something very typical of the colonial period in the narrow, winding and hilly streets that exist in part of the area, even today. Here and there a house can be spotted which looks as if it was very early a part of Glendale Village and has an undiscovered history all its own.

The Shutes were an integral part of Glendale. It was a hard life, but a good life for them. Almost to a man, they lived to a ripe old age, and their contributions to Everett



OLD CENTRAL FIRE STATION

before 1908



Became Chief
1894

FLETCHER SUTHERLAND
First Permanent Fire Chief

Died
1908